California Coastal Trail Signage Program









California Coastal Trail Signage Program

Port of San Diego Signage Celebration, May 31 2008. From left: Coastwalk Board President Fran Gibson, Tim Duff, State Coastal Conservancy, Director of the Port of San Diego, Aide to Governor Schwarzenegger.





Pismo Beach Signage Celebration, July 25 2008. From left: State Parks representative, Coastwalk Board Member, Grover Beach Mayor, Pismo Beach Mayor, San Luis Obispo County Supervisor and Coastal Commissioner Katcho Achadjian, Coastwalk Executive Director Una Glass, SLOCOG Executive Director. Photo courtesy of Richard Nichols



San Clemente Coastal Trail Dedication

Vol. 3, Issue 40, October 2–8, 2008

By Rebecca Nordquist San Clemente Times

Ten years in the making, the San Clemente Coastal Trail is finished and getting dedicated. Here's the story behind the trail and its makers...

It's something of a reunion on John Dorey's deck today, or as Tom



Gudauskas puts it, it's just like "getting the band back together." On this same oceanfront deck at Riviera beach some 10 years ago, this group of neighbors gathered to fight against a 12-footwide paved trail and a 6-foot-tall chainlink fence slated for San Clemente's coastline. A seawall was also planned for Mariposa Point and beach access points would be reduced.

Outraged by the proposal, these residents formed DeRail the Trail—a familiar catchphrase for San Clementeans in the late '90s as more than 3,000 yard signs touted the group's mission. They fought the city and several regulatory agencies to kill the project with success and, soon after, built a trail of their own. In lieu of the paved trail and in improving the unofficial trail that existed, they negotiated for the 2.3-mile San Clemente Coastal Trail, aka the Beach Trail, which now meanders from North Beach to Calafia. And that work, in essence, is being commemorated 10 a.m. Friday, October 3 at the Metrolink Station in North Beach during the Coastal Trail Dedication with Mayor Joe Anderson.

As the reunion continues on the Dorey's deck, Kathryn Stovall Dennis unpacks DeRail the Trail T-shirts, signs and stickers for props in a photo. There's a sense of pride with this group as they reminisce about the first days of their battle. They joke that they "ganged up" on now Acting City Planner Jim Pechous when they first heard the plans for the city-sponsored trail. After presenting the plans, says Dorey, whose late wife, Stephanie Dorey, was on the DeRail the Trail executive committee with Stovall Dennis and Bill Hart, "[Pechous] realized he had an uphill battle."

DeRail the Trail mobilized in early 1998 with about 20 additional community members: Marvin



Dennis, Wendy Morris, Bob Joseph, Liz Kuhns, Brenda Kinsman, Nancy Gudauskas, Pete Van Nuys and many others who gave their time for the cause. "We wanted a real trail, not a road on the beach," says Stovall Dennis. That summer, they hosted a symposium with approximately 500 people in attendance to inform the public on the city's trail plans. That, they say, was the turning point for the Coastal Trail. In January 1999, the San Clemente City Council unanimously voted against the city trail plan, and the group then formed Railroad Corridor Safety and Education Panel (RCSEP) to come up with a solution to counter what was turned down. "It's a good thing they didn't walk away from the table," says Pechous. "They thought the railroad would come with their own solution."

And DeRail's solution involved designing a trail with what Stovall Dennis calls a "beach towny, local San Clemente vibe." "The spirit of the trail has remained the same," she says of the unofficial trail that people used before the Coastal Trail's construction. "We didn't want something overbuilt: We wanted it to meander in and out, hugging the coastline and mimicking it."

The vision for the trail was simple: The road to accomplishing it was not. Before DeRail the Trail and the city could move forward, it needed approval from the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the California Coastal Commission, which green lighted the Coastal Trail in 2000. It also had to negotiate with additional agencies including Orange County Transportation Authority, Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and Caltrans Division of Rail. This took several trips to Sacramento for Pechous, Stovall Dennis, Stephanie Dorey and then Mayor Susan Ritschel, and they got so far as to recruiting now Supervisor Pat Bates to help introduce legislature to make the Coastal Trail exempt from the PUC's control. "Our success would not have been as great without the community's support," says Pechous. "It was mobilized and strong because of DeRail the Trail."

The PUC conceded in 2004, and in January 2006, the city broke ground on the Coastal Trail. With a combination of city funds and federal and state grants, the trail's final price tag was a little more than \$15 million. It's lined with native plants, constructed with decomposed granite and its highlight, agreed upon by several of the DeRail members today, is the Mariposa Point boardwalk and underpass. "That area was a dangerous location before," says DeRail the Trail's Morris who originally opposed the boardwalk. "It's now so safe and beautiful."

As others gather around to talk about their favorite aspect of the Coastal Trail, Tom Gudauskas says he enjoys the excitement and community spirit that the fight for the trail created; John Dorey says it's the fact that everyone from mothers with strollers to the elderly can use the trail. "It's available to all," Joseph says in agreement, calling the trail an icon. "It's one more way for



San Clemente to promote itself as one of the best beach cities in Southern California."

It is, after all, San Clemente's trail—and that was the vision from the beginning.

Coastal Trail Dedication

10 a.m. Friday, October 3 Metrolink Station in North Beach, 1850 Avenida Estacion

San Clemente Coastal Trail Timeline

Fall 1997 Grassroots movement begins opposing the city-sponsored trail, which includes a 12-foot-wide paved path, a 6-foot-tall chainlink fence, a seawall at Mariposa and reduced beach access points

January–February 1998 DeRail the Trail is created and steering committee, including the late Stephanie Dorey, Kathryn Stovall Dennis and Bill Hart, is selected

January 1999 City-sponsored trail is unanimously voted down by San Clemente City Council

March 1999 Railroad Corridor Safety and Education Panel (RCSEP) is formed by a diverse group of 16 community members to negotiate for what is now the San Clemente Coastal Trail; many of those members are from DeRail the Trail

May 1999 RCSEP's first meeting with facilitator

Jan 2000 RCSEP recommendations for the Coastal Trail approved by City Council

2000 DeRail the Trail morphs into ReStore the Shore, a more broad-based beach activist group

2002 DeRail the Trail and ReStore the Shore form DeRail the Rail in an effort to stop double tracking on San Clemente's beaches

May 2004 Public Utilities Commission unanimously approves permits to license crossings

January 2006 Groundbreaking ceremony for the start of construction for the Coastal Trail

Exhibit 2: Signing Event Photos and Articles



October 2008 The city dedicates the Coastal Trail

Mariposa Point Art

When the boardwalk and underpass at Mariposa Point were designed, three spots were inset for tile murals. Artist Kathryn Stovall Dennis, who was instrumental in the creation of the Coastal Trail, was chosen for the work. With partial funds from the city and money that needs to be raised through the Mariposa Point Task Force, Stovall Dennis created two Mariposa signs for the front and back entrance of the underpass and a tile mosaic at the bottom of the underpass's stairs. For the inside mosaic, she chose a butterfly—for the Spanish word mariposa—and pulled in ocean elements. "On the beachside Mariposa tile mural, there's broken Mexican tile," says Stovall Dennis. "That speaks to the Hispanic culture in the area, and those tiles came from Stephanie Dorey—they were hers." Dorey, another driving force for the Coastal Trail, passed away from cancer in April 2007. Dennis is working on a memorial bench that will be on the trail at Riviera—just north of Dorey's home.

To contribute to the Mariposa art project, send a check to Watershed Task Force, P.O. Box 1121, San Clemente, CA 92674. In the memo, be sure to write "Beach Trail Art."



Hermosa Beach News

Signs will make The Strand part of a new coastal trail

By Eric Michael Stitt

(Updated: Thursday, March 13, 2008 10:15 AM PDT)

Hermosa Beach will become the first city in Los Angeles County to officially become part of the California Coastal Trail.

Near the pier on Friday, March 14, at 2 p.m., the public is invited to take part in a ceremony that will unveil three signs along The Strand depicting it as part of CCT in an effort to conserve the coast and create a parallel path for people to enjoy it.

Former Hermosa Beach City Councilman and Coastwalk board member George Schmeltzer recently presented the idea at a council meeting and the councilmen approved it, making Hermosa Beach one of the first communities in the state to adopt the signs and the first in the county.

"We like being the leaders in an effort to keep the coast clean and available for the public," said Mayor Michael Keegan.

Schmeltzer said in 1999 the CCT was designated at the state and federal level as a 1,200-mile Millennium Legacy Trail, and two years later the California state Legislature passed legislation mandating its completion. So far, 600 miles of the trail was designated last year and the other 600 miles of the coastal trail will be determined this year. The final project will be a path consisting of concrete, sand and dirt running along the entire California coast.

Coastwalk board member Don Neirlich said the Coastwalk organization is celebrating its 25th anniversary so having the signs installed this year helps commemorate that achievement. Neirlich said he's happy Hermosa Beach was able to approve the installation of three signs, adding that it's not an easy task because it has to be approved by the coastal community, then by the Coastal Conservancy board and finally the Coastal Commission.

Schmeltzer said he's also excited Hermosa Beach decided to lead the L.A. County communities in holding a dedication ceremony and he hopes this will further encourage all other cities to partake in the CCT's efforts.

Exhibit 2: Signing Event Photos and Articles



Hermosa Beach News

"It's great to have people dedicated to preserving the coast of California," he said, adding that Manhattan Beach and Santa Monica will be holding installation ceremonies in the near future.

Linda West, a Hermosa Beach resident and Coastwalk volunteer, said she is thrilled the city took the lead in putting up the signs because it shows Hermosa Beach cares about preserving the coast and she encourages the public to attend the event.

"It's really rewarding," West said. "It's exciting to see the city take this on and be a forerunner. We feel proud and we really appreciate that the city of Hermosa Beach cares about the coast and their hearts are in the right place ... I'm really excited about this. We want to see this happen."

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Coastal Trail takes big step

By April Charlton/Senior Staff Writer

Posted Sunday, July 27, 2008



Janet Keeler, who was on vacation from Fresno, walks along the California Central Coast Trail in Dinosaur Caves Park on Thursday morning. / TPR/ Bryan Walton

Most people who enjoy leisurely walking along Pismo Beach's blufftop trails probably don't know they are also traversing a section of the almost half-complete California Coastal Trail.

But that will all change today, when the first emblem marking the statewide Coastal Trail in Pismo Beach is erected near the kiosk along the blufftop at Dinosaur Caves Park, along with other trail sites in the city and to the south.

"The city of Pismo Beach's participation in the signing program is a great step forward for the Coastal Trail," said Sam Schuchat, Coastal Conservancy executive officer.

"To be designated with the Coastal Trail insignia will identify the trail as it grows and links all the spectacular places along our world-renowned coastline."

The Coastal Conservancy approved the insignia signage program for the trail in 2005, launching the inaugural program last year. Since then, 88 miles of the extensive route have been signed with 270 emblems.

By signing the areas of the trail that are complete, such as Pismo's trails system and those in Grover Beach and Oceano, the Coastal Conservancy hopes to give the trail an identity, letting people know it exists, even though it's not completed.

"We want people to know it's definitely a reality; it may not be complete, but it's a reality," Dick Wayman, Coastal Conservancy communications director, said about the insignia program. "Having a graphic emblem also helps identify parts of the trail as a greater whole. We want to put the emblem wherever the trail is."

Pismo Beach has an extensive blufftop trail system that has been developed over the years as the city has improved its parks. When Pismo updated its Local Coastal Plan, all of its trails were identified and eventually adopted as part of the California Coastal Trail.

"We wanted to be part of the California Coastal Trails for years," said Carolyn Johnson, Pismo planning supervisor.

Exhibit 2: Signing Event Photos and Articles



So after the city developed a trails brochure highlighting Pismo's more than one dozen blufftop trails, it was sent to the Coastal Conservancy with a request to have the trails system added to the California Coastal Trail.

"We said, 'We'd really love to have the distinction,' and they agreed," Johnson said.

Emblems identifying other parts of the statewide trail in the county have already been placed — in Cambria, at Moonstone Beach, along the boardwalk and at Leffingwell Landing, as well as at Fiscalini Ranch in San Luis Obispo.

"The city of Pismo Beach is very proud to have its trail (system) along the ocean included in the California Coastal Trail," Pismo Mayor Mary Ann Reiss said. "We are pleased to be able to call the trail (system) what it is — a trail for the entire California community."

As part of today's linking event, 34 new California Coastal Trail insignia signs will be erected along the coast, starting with the Bluffs Coastal Trail in Shell Beach and ending with the trail at the Oceano Memorial Park & Campground near the Oceano Airport.

The signage project is a joint undertaking of the Coastal Conservancy, State Parks, Coastwalk and numerous community groups.

Once completed, the complex Coastal Trail will extend 1,200 miles along the California coast from the Oregon border to Mexico. It is more than 50 percent complete.

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Strand marks portion of coastal trail

by Robb Fulcher Published March 13, 2008

Hikers and public officials will unveil three new insignias to recognize the Hermosa Strand as part of the California Coastal Trail, which will extend 1,200 miles from Oregon to Mexico.

The ceremony will take place 2 p.m. Friday, March 14 on The Strand at the Pier Plaza, near the Mermaid Restaurant.

The insignias, measuring three-and-a-half inches square, will be embedded into the Strand wall at that location, and at the city's southern and northern ends.

Hermosa will be the first city in Los Angeles County to sport the insignias, said former Hermosa Councilman George Schmeltzer, who sits on the board of the Coastwalk organization, which worked on the insignia project with a grant from the Coastal Conservancy.

The California Coastal Trail was designated a state and federal Millennium Legacy Trail in 1999, and in 2001 the California Legislature called for its completion. Today it stands more than half complete.

"This dream started with the simple idea that the whole California coastline belongs to all of us, and should be accessible to everyone who will enjoy it with respect. Unfortunately, although our shoreline is universally considered to be a national treasure and one of California's great draws, much of it remains fenced off, overbuilt or otherwise inaccessible," states a message on the Coastwalk website. "Through a great deal of effort, the tide is slowly turning, and each year a bit more of the trail becomes available to those who want to enjoy it while helping to preserve it."

The insignias were approved in 2005 by the Coastal Conservancy Board. Now citizens, nonprofit entities and public agencies are working up and down the coast to mark the trail with the insignias, Schmeltzer said.

Placement of the insignias in Hermosa was approved recently by the City Council.

Scheduled to attend the Friday ceremony are representatives of California Sen. Jenny Oropeza and Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, and Coastwalk President Fran Gibson.

Along the length of the trail, 238 insignias have been installed, marking more than 80 miles, volunteers said.

The greatest density of insignias is found in Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, San Francisco and San Luis Obispo counties.

Stretches marked with insignias include Lost Coast-King Range in Humboldt County, Lost Coast-Sinkyone Wilderness and MacKerricher State Beach in Mendocino County, Kortum Trail in Sonoma County, Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco County and

More information on Coastwalk, including a schedule of Coastwalk's hikes, is available at coastwalk.org.

CHICO ENTERPRISE-RECORD

On Foot: Chico man dreams of continuous coastal trail

By LAURIE KAVENAUGH - Style Editor April 29, 2008

They say you can take the girl out of the city, but you can't take the city out of the girl. The same thing can be said about the beach. After growing up in Southern California and loving the coast, there's a part of me that will always want to be by the ocean.

Ron Jones of Chico reminded me of that last week when he stopped by the E-R to talk about his favorite subject, Coastwalk. It's an organization of people who love to walk along California's coast.

It was founded 25 years ago when a large plot of land near Jenner was sold to developers who started the community of Sea Ranch. Sea Ranch contained some 12 miles of coastline that would have ended up in private hands.

A community of homes at Sea Ranch was planned with little public access to the beach. Those who felt more land should be open to the public formed opposition groups and pushed for legislation that would insure public use.

"Sea Ranch was only 12 miles of coastline, but what if we had 12 of Sea Ranch?" Jones said, as he explained Coastwalk's beginning.

In a roundabout result, the California Coastal Commission was established. Today the commission continues to regulate the land along the Pacific Ocean.

The idea to begin seaside walking excursions came from that time when Coastwalk supporters wanted to show the public and its government representatives the value of coastal access.

Today, guided walks include day hikes or overnight camping in parks, campfire dinners, and transportation for camping gear and personal belongings. Coastwalk also brings in experts in geology, history or botany for programs.

Walks are designed for families, women, backpackers and those who prefer staying in a hotel.

Jones has become a trip leader, and for several years has taken a group along the Sonoma shores in July. This year it will be July 15-19. Trips vary in cost from \$200 to \$500, depending on length and support arrangements. Jones' five-day, four-night trip along the Sonoma coast is \$385.

Exhibit 2: Signing Event Photos and Articles

When Coastwalks' efforts began working, the next step was to envision a continual trail along the 1,100 miles of the golden state's shores.

In 2005 Jones took part in a "full walk," taking on trails and roads along the entire length of walkable coastline. He and about 10 other people walked six days a week, while sharing their one-trail goal along the way with city councils and newspapers.

About 60 percent of the trail complete, mostly in Northern California. Still, some 400 miles have be routed on main roads, because trails aren't in place yet.

Jones said it was difficult at first on the roads. "It was so nerve-racking because of the traffic. But then you walk so long, a truck goes by and you don't even notice it."

But times are changing for the maturing Coastwalk organization and its baby boomer members, said Jones.

"Every walk used to be me and 30 to 40 other walkers. Now it's 20 walkers," he said. "It started with white, middle-class baby boomers. Because their tastes (in recreation) have changed, the numbers are dwindling," he said. "Sometimes I'm the youngest person on the walk and I'm 57."

It's time to recruit younger, more divergent groups of people for Coastwalk. That may not be easy, Jones said, with the younger Internet generation. Many young people don't think they need to get out to visit beautiful areas such as California's coast when they can see it on a Web site, he said.

Jones, who is retired from a phone company job and has lived in Chico since 1978, thinks as people get older, Coastwalk may lose its momentum without new people — the 20-and 30-somethings and minorities.

He hopes the drop in number of people attending Coastwalk hikes may be reaching the end of an era and be replaced by a new group — families.

"Coastwalk has family walks. There's a one in Monterey where you can spend the night in the (Monterey) aquarium," he said.

"I think we're in a cyclicable period where people will wake up and want to discover the natural spaces."

On Foot is all about walking. Style Editor Laurie Kavenaugh can be reached at 896-7765 or lifestyle@chicoer.com. See photos of today's On Foot at www.chicoer.com/lifestyle.



Coastal trails in Pismo Beach become part of statewide effort

Posted: July 25, 2008 01:02 PM





Friday, July 25, 2008 Reported by: <u>Rob Carlmark</u>



California has over 1,200 miles of coastline, and you can walk along about half of that courtesy of one big effort.

Pismo Beach is home to about nine miles of the <u>California Coastal Trail</u> system from Pirate's Cove to Grover Beach and Oceano.

Friday, the city of Pismo Beach announced that they are officially part of the statewide movement to let Californians enjoy one of our greatest resources.



Pismo Beach Mayor Mary Ann Reiss said, "We always felt this was part of the greater California Trail system, but now it is official."

"Our society is changing - more walking and biking and enjoying the outdoors than we used to be, and that is just the best." said Pismo Beach City Councilmember Bill Rabenaldt.

Metal signs now mark the trail near Dinosaur Caves and beyond.



The trail system takes the work of city, county, state, and private landowners to make it all happen. Many of the officials involved were on hand to celebrate the trail's designation, and went for a walk along the coast.

There are also other sections of the California Coastal Trail in Cambria, and efforts to find an inland coastal trail between Port San Luis and Montana De Oro. There is also a plan to extend trails between Cambria and the Elephant Seal Colony, and Morro Bay and Cayucos.

The coordination between Grover Beach and Pismo Beach were also highlighted as part of the future of the trail system.



For more information on the trail, click <u>here</u>.

pressdemocrat

First stretch of Bodega Bay coastal trail opens

Path gives foot travelers safer alternative to crowded Highway 1; may become part of Coastwalk

By ROBERT DIGITALE

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Published: Tuesday, September 2, 2008 at 3:41 a.m. Last Modified: Tuesday, September 2, 2008 at 5:28 a.m.

Bodega Bay resident Don Toms is making regular use of the new metal-and-concrete footbridge across a

creek at the south end of the coastal village.

A new \$500,000 bridge over Cheney Creek at the south end of Bodega Bay completes the first part of a trail that will ultimately connect Doran Beach to Salmon Creek.

"It really opens up a lot of area," said Toms, his binoculars hanging around his neck, as he walked across the bridge last week after spotting three deer near the entrance to Doran Beach State Park.

Beach State Park.

The \$500,000 bridge over Cheney Creek completes the first segment of a planned 3-mile pathway through town, extending



MARK ARONOFF / The Press Democrat

from Doran Beach to Salmon Creek.

Sonoma County Supervisor Mike Reilly, who represents Bodega Bay, said pedestrians lack a safe way to travel through town.

"You can't walk through Bodega Bay on Highway 1," Reilly said.

Trail enthusiasts have even bigger hopes. They see the pathway as part of a state-promoted California coastal trail.

The new trail segment allows access "so the public can experience this incredible coast," said Judy Rosales, trails steward for Sebastopol-based Coastwalk.

The trail work was done in a partnership between Sonoma County and the state Coastal Conservancy. Some of the funds came from the county's ¼-cent sales tax for transportation projects.

Thanks to the new bridge, Toms can hike from his home in the Bodega Harbour subdivision up to the town's post office, something he would never do along the state highway.

He passes through the Bird Walk Coastal Access Park, an area of now-dry marshland that fills with water in winter and is frequented by waterfowl and shore birds.

Todd Holmes, a county parks planning manager, said a design is in the works for the trail's next phase, from Eastshore Road near the harbor to Salmon Creek.

The third and most challenging phase will connect those two trails and pass through the center of Bodega Bay.

"There's going to be cantilevers and boardwalks out over the water," Holmes said.

You can reach Staff Writer Robert Digitale at 521-5285 or robert.digitale@pressdemocrat.com.